

Explanation of Historical Significance: The tree must be associated with a historic event or place, or with prominent persons or institutions; or serve as a historic or notable landmark. Please identify fully and in detail. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Any Additional Information: (Copies of newspaper articles, old photographs, or other documentation is essential for consideration.)

Submit Nominations and
Supporting Documentation To:

Kentucky Division of Forestry
627 Comanche Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4496

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxilliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability and equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. For more information, contact the Division of Forestry at (502) 564-4496 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST. Hearing- and speech-impaired persons can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call 1-800-648-6057. For TDD to voice, call 1-800-648-6056.



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ROOTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH



Recognizing historically significant trees in Kentucky

Kentucky Division of Forestry
627 Comanche Trail
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

ROOTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH is a Division of Forestry program designed to identify those trees that are associated with people, places, or events in Kentucky history. The trees selected for the Kentucky register will be eligible to be in the national *Famous and Historic Register* maintained by American Forests.

Trees eligible for consideration will be those associated with a historic event, with persons or institutions, or with notable landmarks. The division will maintain records of the trees nominated and will periodically publish a directory of the historical trees. The owners and nominators of entries selected for the directory will be provided with a certificate indicating their participation in the program. The designation of a tree as part of Kentucky's heritage will place emphasis on the role trees have played in Kentucky's history.

To nominate a tree for consideration in the *Roots of the Commonwealth* registry, complete the nomination form and submit it with supporting documentation (i.e., old newspaper articles, photographs, etc.) to the Division of Forestry address on the form.



Some of Kentucky's Historic Trees

The Indian Creek Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is growing in Bourbon County where it is estimated to be more than 500 years of age.



Numerous Indian tribes inhabited this area where frequent buffalo herds roamed. The area was burned off periodically by the Indians to encourage the growth of native grasses, which were the preferred vegetation of buffaloes.

This National Champion Big Tree was a sapling when Christopher Columbus founded America, and it is still vigorous.

The Owensboro Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), which is a National Champion Big Tree, is growing along Frederica Street in Owensboro, where it is



estimated to be nearly 300 years of age. In the 1870s, sassafras oil extracted from the bark and roots of the tree was believed to heal the lame, prolong life, and cure colds, fevers, headaches, and stomachaches. This stately sassafras has survived bark harvesters and was threatened by the widening of Frederica

Street in 1957. When the bulldozers came, Mrs. O.W. Rash was waiting with her shotgun to hold off the contractors until a call from Governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler resulted in the building of a retaining wall to protect the tree. The sassafras still thrives today and is considered one of Owensboro's best-known landmarks.

Roots of the Commonwealth
Kentucky Historic Trees
Nomination Form

Name of Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Description of the Tree Nominated:

Species: _____

Botanical Name: _____

A specific location of tree by city, highway, and other known landmarks.

Name, phone number, and complete address of owner:

Owners signature for authorization to submit tree for Kentucky's historic register